## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-38 (cancelled)

Claim 39 (new): A method for the treatment of a HCV infection in a host in need thereof comprising administering an effective treatment amount of a β-D-2'-fluoronucleoside, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the  $\beta$ -D-2'-fluoronucleoside has a pyrimidine base.

Claim 41 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the pyrimidine base is selected from the group consisting of thymine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-aza-pyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrmidine, C<sup>5</sup>-alkylpyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-benzylpyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-halopyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-vinylpyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-acetylenic pyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-acyl pyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-hydroxyalkyl purine, C<sup>5</sup>-amidopyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-cyanopyrimidine, C<sup>5</sup>-nitropyrimidine, and C<sup>5</sup>-aminopyrimidine.

Claim 42 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the pyrimidine base is thymine.

Claim 43 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the pyrimidine base is uracil.

Claim 44 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the pyrimidine base is 5-halouracil.

Claim 45 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine.

Claim 46 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the pyrimidine base is 5-fluorocytosine.

- Claim 47 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the  $\beta$ -D-2'-fluoronucleoside has a purine base.
- Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein the purine base is selected from the group consisting of N<sup>6</sup>-alkylpurine, N<sup>6</sup>-acylpurine (wherein acyl is C(O)(alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, or arylalkyl), N<sup>6</sup>-benzylpurine, N<sup>6</sup>-halopurine, N<sup>6</sup>-vinylpurine, N<sup>6</sup>-acetylenic purine, N<sup>6</sup>-acyl purine, N<sup>6</sup>-hydroxyalkyl purine, N<sup>6</sup>-thioalkyl purine, N<sup>2</sup>-alkylpurines, N<sup>2</sup>-alkylpurines, N<sup>2</sup>-alkylpurine, N<sup>2</sup>-alkylpurine, N<sup>2</sup>-alkylpurine, S-azacytidinyl, guanine, adenine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine.
- Claim 49 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the β-D-2'-fluoronucleoside has a triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl, pyrrolopyrimidinyl, or pyrazolopyrimidinyl base.
- Claim 50 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the  $\beta$ -D-2'-fluoronucleoside is in substantially pure form.
- Claim 51 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the  $\beta$ -D-2'-fluoronucleoside is at least 90% by weight of the  $\beta$ -D-isomer.
- Claim 52 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the  $\beta$ -D-2'-fluoronucleoside is at least 95% by weight of the  $\beta$ -D-isomer.
- Claim 53 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the  $\beta$ -D-2'-fluoronucleoside is administered in the form of a dosage unit.
- Claim 54 (new): The method of claim 53, wherein the dosage unit contains 50-1000 mg of the compound.
- Claim 55 (new): The method of claim 53, wherein the dosage unit is in the form of a tablet or capsule.
- Claim 56 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.
- Claim 57 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

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- Claim 58 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.
- Claim 59 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.
- Claim 60 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.
- Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.
- Claim 62 (new): The method of any one of claims 39-49, wherein the host is a human.